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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5778**
Makoto NISHIZAKI et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2005_1122A
Serial No. 10/542,947 : Group Art Unit 2654
Filed July 21, 2005 :

VOICE OUTPUT APPARATUS AND VOICE
OUTPUT METHOD

**SUBMISSION OF ENGLISH VERSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY AND WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner are:

- 1) An English version of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability; and
- 2) An English version of the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Makoto NISHIZAKI et al.

By: Michael S. Huppert
Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 18, 2006

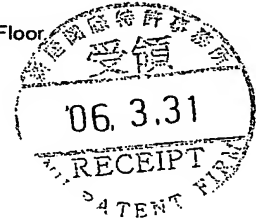
From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

NII, Hiromori
c/o NII Patent Firm
Shin-Osaka SuehiroCenter Bldg., 3rd Floor
11-26, Nishinakajima 3-chome
Yodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi
Osaka 532-0011
JAPON



Date of mailing (day/month/year)
23 March 2006 (23.03.2006)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P34439-P0

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/006065

International filing date (day/month/year)
27 April 2004 (27.04.2004)

Applicant

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GR, GU, HK, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Masashi Honda

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

Facsimile No.+41 22 338 70 10

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P34439-P0	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/006065	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 April 2004 (27.04.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21 May 2003 (21.05.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 16 March 2006 (16.03.2006)
Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Masashi Honda</div>
Telephone No. +41 22 338 70 10	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Translation

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:		<p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;">PCT</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY</p> <p style="margin: 0;">(PCT Rule 43bis.1)</p>	
Date of mailing (day/month/year)		Applicant's or agent's file reference P34439-P0	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/006065		International filing date (day/month/year) 27.04.2004	
Priority date (day/month/year) 21.05.2003		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC			
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/IP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/006065

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language
_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/006065

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability:
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>2-22, 24-27</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1, 23, 28</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>2-22, 24-27</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1, 23, 28</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-28</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP, 2003-108171, A (Clarion Co., Ltd.), 11 April, 2003 (11.04.03)

Claims 1, 23 and 28

Document 1 (particularly, [0039] and [0053]) cited in the ISR describes a feature of an audible reading device wherein key words are shown on a display window before they are output by voice so that the text information and the voice-output information are simultaneously confirmed.

Claims 2-22 and 24-27

The feature of a voice-output device wherein the time from the point of indication of transmitted information in characters to the point of voice output of the said information is set according to the mode of indication of the said characters, is neither described in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.